

The
Miriam Fund
Creating opportunities for women and girls



FY26 Annual Report

July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026

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Grantees in action



Bais Yaakov



Flying Cloud Institute



Jeremiah Program



Women's Lunch Place



The Vilna Shul

Letter from the Co-chairs



Dear Members,

It was hard to imagine that The Miriam Fund (TMF) could surpass the achievements of last year’s 25th anniversary, and yet, we now come to the end of another year of extraordinary focus and growth.



As the TMF Co-chairs, we are grateful for the spirit of generosity and connection that defines TMF. Together, we have not only supported important causes but also strengthened our vibrant community rooted in the enduring Jewish values of *tzedakah* (charitable giving), *kehillah* (community), and *areyvut* (mutual responsibility).

Member engagement

This year has been marked by the enthusiasm of members who stepped forward to engage deeply and embrace opportunities for leadership.

- 17 members took on leadership roles as Committee and Subcommittee Co-chairs
- 22 members served on the Executive Committee
- 70 members read Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Grant Applications and participated on our Israel, Jewish, and Secular Grant Subcommittees, including presenting grant proposals and attending site visit meetings
- 51 members engaged in activities, including joining our Membership and Program and Advocacy Committees, and other task force meetings; mentoring Future Funders and other new members; studying with Layah Lipsker; and leading programing and advocacy initiatives. Watching participants take ownership, share ideas, guide discussions, and help shape our collective vision has been truly inspiring.

Leadership

Encouraging leadership is core to the mission and values of TMF. In nonprofit giving circles like TMF, leadership is about willingness to help guide us to ensure that our members’ generosity translates into meaningful impact.

Without members stepping forward to lead, even the most passionate group can lose focus or stall. Strong leadership provides clarity and momentum. It helps us move from good intentions to thoughtful action, from individual ideas to collective decisions that truly make a difference. It turns energy into direction.

Leadership in TMF is meant to be shared and to evolve. It doesn’t require perfection or prior experience — it requires willingness. When members step up, they bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and a deeper sense of ownership. That can look like facilitating a discussion, researching potential grantees, mentoring newer members, or simply asking the questions that move the group forward. Each of us has something to offer. Each act of leadership strengthens us and reinforces a culture where we all feel empowered and inspired by our work together.

Being willing to lead is an act of generosity. It is a gift of time, talent, and commitment to our mission. When members volunteer to lead, they ensure the sustainability and vibrancy of TMF for years to come. In that way, it is not just about guiding others. It is about helping TMF to continue to thrive and to reach its fullest potential while passing on its mission and purpose from generation to generation.

Time, talent, and treasure

In the world of philanthropy, time, talent, and treasure are the three powerful ways each of us can make a difference.

Time is the most universal gift we have. It is the hours we spend mentoring, organizing, listening, and showing up. In giving our time, we offer presence, care, and commitment — these cannot be replicated or replaced. Choosing to dedicate time to TMF is a meaningful expression of our commitment to its mission.

Talent is where the individuality of each of our members shines. Each member brings unique skills, experiences, and perspectives — whether it’s professional education or training, financial expertise, storytelling, strategic thinking, or community building. When we contribute our talents, we amplify our effectiveness. Talent turns good intentions into meaningful, lasting change.

Treasure is our financial contributions. Treasure fuels the work, provides the resources we need to grow, innovate, and, at times, respond to urgent needs. Within TMF, treasure becomes more than a donation; it becomes a shared expression of values. When pooled together, our collective giving transforms individual contributions into a far more powerful force capable of creating real, measurable impact.

We have all seen how these three elements complement each other. Time strengthens relationships and deepens understanding. Talent sharpens strategy and expands possibilities. Treasure propels action and sustainability. When all three come together, they ensure the success of our mission.

Gratitude

As Co-chairs of TMF, the three of us are incredibly grateful to have worked together seamlessly throughout the year. Through thoughtful collaboration and open dialogue, we have navigated the many developments that have kept TMF on course and moving forward. Our partnership has been strengthened by a shared commitment to learning, growth, and ensuring that TMF continues to thrive. We are grateful to our members for the confidence they have placed in us this year and for all that each of you contributes to The Miriam Fund.

With respect and gratitude,

Janet Aserkoff, Nancy Levitan Poorvu, and Debby Posin
The Miriam Fund Chairs

The Miriam Fund

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2000, **THE MIRIAM FUND** HAS AWARDED OVER **\$7.5 MILLION** TO ORGANIZATIONS DOING CRUCIAL WORK IN PURSUIT OF **GENDER EQUITY**.

Mission

The Miriam Fund is a philanthropic community committed to creating an equitable world that expands opportunities for individuals whom woman or girl is a meaningful identifier, including (but not limited to) cisgender and transgender woman and girls and nonbinary individuals. Through strategic grantmaking, TMF aims to inspire and strengthen women and girls within and beyond our Jewish community and, in the process, encourage its members to be advocates, leaders, and agents of change.



TMF Volunteers at The Greater Boston Food Bank



American Friends of Beit Ruth



Haifa Rape Crisis Center

Priority areas

The Miriam Fund awards grants to organizations in both Jewish and secular programs within Massachusetts and in Israel that serve women and girls.

Priority issues



Health



Legal Rights



Economic Empowerment



Education



Personal Safety

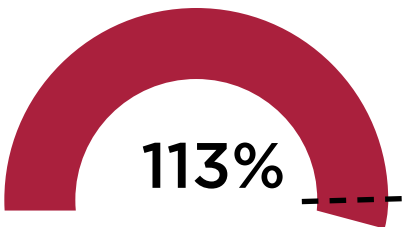
The Miriam Fund is a unique, collaborative venture with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). We appreciate our mutual efforts to support the Jewish community and improve the world for women and girls.

Financial overview



Membership

The Miriam Fund welcomed nine new members and seven Future Funders into our community during FY26. Our total membership is 130. We will continue to explore new ways to recruit and retain members in FY27 to provide a continuously enriching and fulfilling experience for all members.



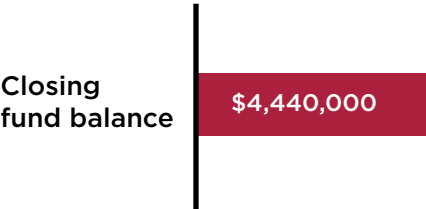
Fundraising

In FY26, we raised a total of \$375,384 from gifts, reaching 113% of our \$330,000 goal for the year. We are deeply grateful to each of our members for their generous gifts and support.

The Miriam Fund has collected \$510,433 of the \$682,000 in pledges (payable over up to five years) in support of the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

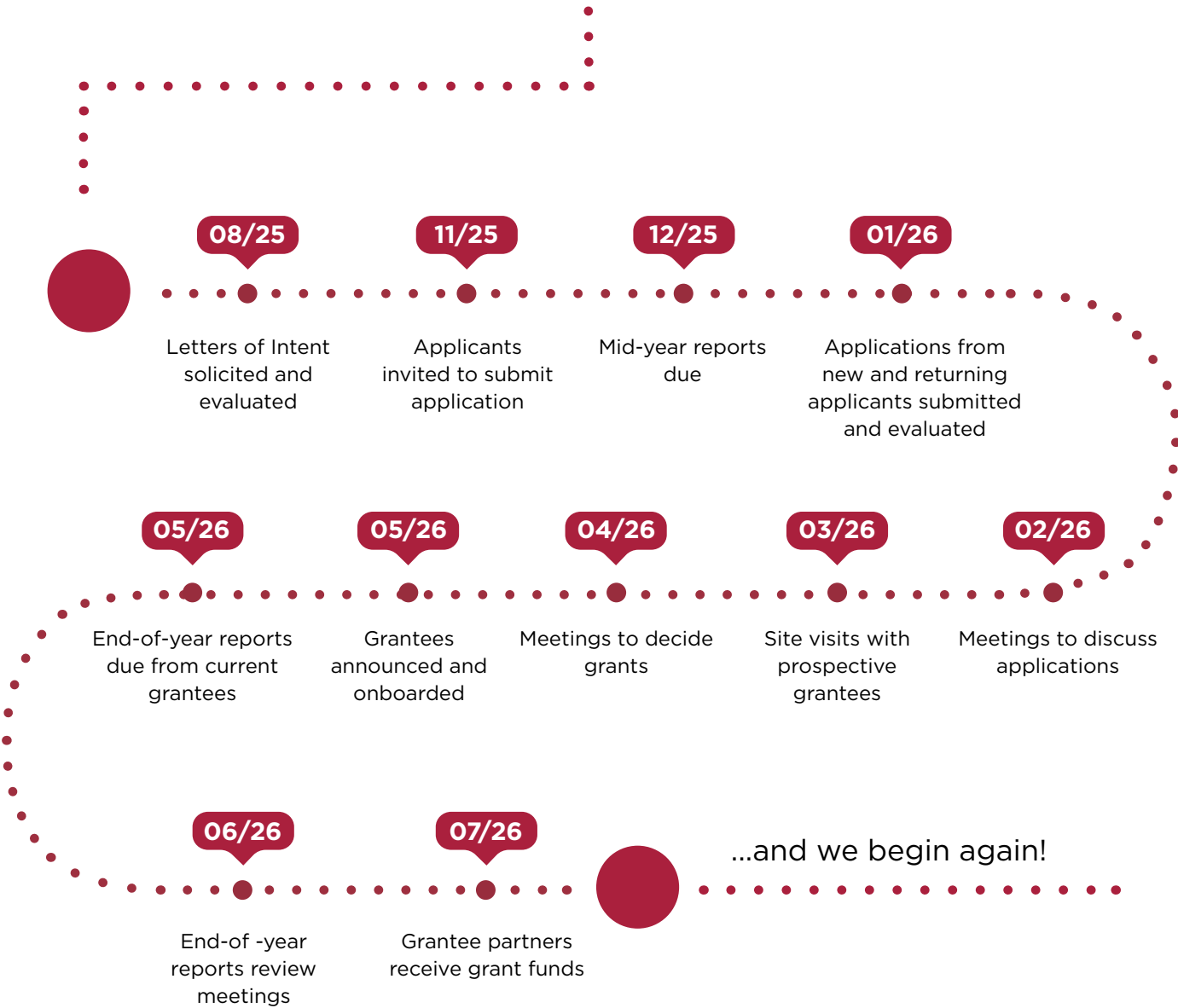
Assets

Each year, The Miriam Fund raises money through membership dues and gifts. These donations are invested in a quasi-endowment fund, which is managed through the Jewish Community Endowment Pool (JCEP). In addition to exceeding our fundraising goal and continuing to collect pledge payment for the 25th Anniversary gifts, TMF benefitted from market performance growth of \$610,799 resulting in a FY26 end of year total quasi endowment fund balance of \$4,440,000.



Grantmaking process

The grantmaking process is the heart of The Miriam Fund’s work. Over the years, our mission has remained consistent, but our methods have evolved as we gain new insights and react to the needs and capabilities of our grantees and the world at large. This hands-on, strategic process is led by TMF members.





Transgenders for Social Justice

ISRAEL SUBCOMMITTEE: \$135,000

- **American Friends of Beit Ruth (third year) | \$12,500**
Project: Vocational Education and Skills Initiative
Description: Readyng girls who have suffered trauma with professional and life skills to prepare them for long-term sustainable employment.
- **ATZUM-Justice Works (third year) | \$15,500**
Project: Task Force on Human Trafficking
Description: Formation and maintenance of a 14-member organization — Coalition Against Trafficking and Prostitution.
- **Elifelet – Citizens for Refugee Children (first year) | \$15,000**
Project: Growing Strong
Description: Safeguarding and empowering status-less girls in Israel through programming, resource support, and education.
- **Emet – Kol Koleinu Teen Feminist Fellowship (first year) | \$20,500**
Project: Therapeutic program for women who have experienced sexual violence
Description: Supporting women, including, Ultra-Orthodox women, with a culturally sensitive and holistic therapy program.
- **Haifa Rape Crisis Center (first year) | \$17,000**
General operating
Description: Supporting survivors of assault while utilizing educational and professional training to prevent further incidents.

- **Tamkin (first year) | \$18,000**

Project: Extensive Program for Autistic Girls

Description: Empowering girls with special needs and learning difficulties through education, fostering friendships, and providing physical and mental health support needs.

- **Transgenders for Social Justice (first year) | \$16,500**

Project: Trans Doula Project

Description: Holistic support for transgender women through their transition journeys.

- **Yozmot Atid (second year) | \$20,000**

Project: Taking the Leap: Building Women’s Business Entrepreneurship and Economic Resilience

Description: Training model and program to build the capacity, increase capability and empowerment, and provide skills and support network for diverse women in financial distress.



Elifelet – Citizens for Refugee Children



Tamkin



Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Inc. (JALSA)

JEWISH SUBCOMMITTEE: \$135,000

- **Bais Yaakov: (first year) | \$12,500**
Project: EMPOWERED Leadership Development
Description: Leadership development and social emotional learning for high school girls.
- **Gateways: Access to Jewish Education (first year) | \$20,000**
Project: Empowering Caregivers
Description: A supportive parenting service for mothers of children with disabilities, providing empowerment through education and resources, coping skills, and community-building.
- **Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Inc. (JALSA) (third year) | \$15,000**
Project: Protecting Abortion Access
Description: Mobilize and educate the Massachusetts Jewish community to defend access to abortion, coping skills, and community-building.



Bais Yaakov



Jookender

- **Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston (first year) | \$25,000**
Project: FAME (Female Activity Mentoring Experience)
Description: Group mentoring program that seeks to foster individual connections and positive peer relationships through social and confidence building activities.
- **Jookender (second year) | \$15,000**
Project: Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Massachusetts
Description: Empowering Ukrainian women and girls displaced by conflict, aiming to support their integration into new communities and facilitate their journey towards self-sufficiency.
- **Jewish Family & Children's Service (first year) | \$20,000**
Project: Journey to Safety
Description: Enhanced legal aid for Journey to Safety's domestic abuse prevention and support programs.
- **The Vilna, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture (second year) | \$20,000**
Project: The Only Woman in the Room: An Arts and Cultural Series about Extraordinary Jewish Women
Description: A series of events and art exhibits highlighting Jewish women who have achieved extraordinary success in professional fields.



Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Boston



Jewish Family & Children's Service



Women's Lunch Place

SECULAR SUBCOMMITTEE: \$135,000

- **Flying Cloud Institute (second year) | \$19,000**
Project: Young Women in Science
Description: Provide dynamic and transformational STEM engagement and multi-generational mentorship for female and non-binary identifying youth ages 9-19.
- **Hilltown Village (first year) | \$23,000**
Project: It Takes a Village
Description: Empowering women across Western Massachusetts who are facing rural isolation or urban poverty by expanding programs like providing support for mothers who are experiencing postpartum depression and supplying deliveries for their basic needs.
- **Jeremiah Program (second year) | \$15,000**
Project: Expanding our Impact for Single Mother College Students
Description: Whole family approach for single mothers in Boston to advance education and career goals while also supporting the growth and development of their children.



Flying Cloud Institute



LEAP Self Defense, Inc.

- **LEAP Self Defense, Inc. (second year) | \$21,000**
General operating support
Description: Empowering girls and gender-expansive youth ages 8-22 to become advocates for their well-being and safety, fostering a sense of belonging in all aspects of their lives.
- **Mother's Milk Bank Northeast (first year) | \$10,000**
Project: Awareness Building for Equitable Access to Donor Breast Milk
Description: Marketing campaign funding to make this service known both to parents/mothers who need donor milk and those who have donor milk to give.
- **The Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts (third year) | \$15,000**
Project: Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors
Description: Provide free legal assistance to low-income survivors of domestic abuse, so they can break the cycle of abuse and poverty.
- **Women's Lunch Place (third year) | \$25,000**
Project: Legal Services Project
Description: Help fund a full-time lawyer to assist women experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty with legal issues that constitute barriers to their improved health, stability, and self-sufficiency.



Jeremiah Program



Hilltown Village

IMPLEMENTED FY26 GOALS:

Deepen engagement and broaden TMF membership

- Continued to prioritize bringing new women into TMF, especially younger women, by attracting in nine new members and seven Future Funders to the TMF community
- Focused on member leadership development and succession planning by updating training sessions and continuing the mentor program
- Launched Future Funders (FF) pilot to empower and educate women between the ages of 25 and 35 with exposure to strategic grantmaking, intergenerational connections, and philanthropy, including establishing program guidelines and activities and developing a year-end evaluation model
- Developed a personal outreach initiative within the Membership Committee to engage current members in our work and attend activities and events

Implement updated measurement process for grant meetings

- Developed and implemented measurement process for grant committees in furtherance of TMF governance policies which require: “Each Subcommittee will also monitor and evaluate organizations TMF is currently funding to ensure that the programs are meeting grant expectations”
- Created a third meeting for each grant committee to be held via Zoom to review grantee end-of-year reports. Committee members used a metrics tool and committee discussion to analyze and review grantee end-of-year reports and summarize each grantee partner’s progress against goals outlined in their applications, challenges they have faced, and the impact of programs/operations funded by TMF.

Operationalize Advocacy Program as part of Program and Advocacy Committee

- Based on member feedback, the Program and Advocacy Committee selected women and poverty, with a focus on food insecurity, as the issue to explore more deeply and take action to solve problems and effect change in the lives of women and girls
- The Program and Advocacy Committee developed and implemented multiple activities to engage and educate members, raise public awareness, and advocate for systemic change. These included:
 - Opening Event presentation on food insecurity featuring The Greater Boston Food Bank and TMF Grantees Women’s Lunch Place, Jewish Family & Children’s Service, and Yad Chessed
 - Book group reading of *How the Other Half Eats*
 - Volunteer Day opportunities at Women’s Lunch Place and The Greater Boston Food Bank
 - Research projects
 - Team participation in the Walk for Hunger

Codify Letter of Intent process for Israeli applicants

- The Executive Committee codified the process of alternating TMF priority areas each year for the Israel application submissions

Continue implementing strategic plan action items

- Continued to review and propose updates to grant procedures and policies as needed, including creation of a task force to review and make recommendations on the current Letter of Intent review process
- Continued collaboration with CJP, other women’s funds, and nonprofit partners
- Continued to raise visibility of TMF through:
 - Presentation at national PHILANOS conference on TMF’s onboarding and mentor/mentee process. PHILANOS is an umbrella organization providing education and support to women’s giving circles
 - Presented at CJP All Staff meetings about TMF and about the Future Funders Program
 - Participated in Jewish Women’s Institute’s Young Leaders gathering to feature Future Funders
 - Published article about TMF in the *Jewish Journal of Greater Boston*
 - Held info session on TMF for potential applicants

Member support: offered funder education programming opportunities on relevant topics

- Financial Training for Grant Readers led by TMF member Glenda Fishman
- Grant Reader Training led by TMF member Reva Fishman
- Subcommittee Co-chair Training led by Janey Nahirny and Glenda Fishman
- Presentation by third-year grantees
- Three-part series of spiritual learning sessions with Layah Lipsker
- Monthly newsletters

Grantee support: continued to offer professional development and educational support opportunities for grantees

- Held TMF convenings with grantee partners and alums on educational topics including *Best Practices in Relationship Building and Development as well as Leading Through Uncertainty*
- Shared CJP Leadership, other community programming, and open grant applications from other funders
- Sent monthly newsletters
- Reviewed and updated our applications and evaluation materials



TMF May 2026 Closing Event

GOALS FOR FY27:

Deepen engagement and broaden TMF membership

- Continue to prioritize bringing new women into TMF, especially younger women
- Focus on member leadership development and succession planning
- Engage the Executive Committee in a conversation to consider whether TMF growth should continue organically or whether there should be a more strategic process to increase growth, taking into consideration TMF's current committee structures and staff resources
- Task the Membership Committee to recommend strategies to attract new members and engage current members in our work and activities/events

Continue to develop the Future Funders Program

- Amend FF Program for FY27 as needed, based on feedback from FF participant survey and leadership review of FF's first year
- Implement second-year program for first-year cohort of Future Funders
- Execute second cohort of Future Funders pilot to empower and educate women between the ages of 25 and 35 with exposure to strategic grantmaking, intergenerational connections, and philanthropy

Finalize work of LOI Task Force to review process and make recommendations

- LOI Task Force to complete LOI process review
- LOI Task Force to make recommendations to the Executive Committee
- Executive Committee to review and decide which recommendations to approve
- Plan to implement approved recommendations for FY28 LOI process, including training

Develop and update training modules

- Update existing grant reader training to provide specific process information, focus on sections of the grant application, and include best practice recommendations for reading the grant agreements
- Update financial training to add to the professional financial overview by including a member without financial background to provide tips and suggestions
- Create an LOI training module to reflect LOI recommendations to be implemented in FY28

Operationalize Advocacy Program as part of Program and Advocacy Committee

- Based on member feedback, select one issue for a two-year period for education and take action to address problems and effect change in the lives of women and girls
- Develop and implement a platform of 1-3 activities annually tied to the selected issue, designed to educate members, raise public awareness, and advocate for systemic change

Continue implementing strategic plan action items

- Continue to review and propose updates to grant procedures and policies as needed. Implement policy grant process changes as approved by the Executive Committee.
- Continue collaboration with CJP, other women's funds, and nonprofit partners
- Continue to offer professional development and educational support opportunities for current grantee partners and alums



TMF members "Walk for Hunger"



Task Force on Human Trafficking members

Task Force on Human Trafficking and Prostitution

The Task Force on Human Trafficking and Prostitution (TFHT) is honored to partner with The Miriam Fund to carry out essential work on behalf of Israel's most vulnerable women and girls. In Israel, TFHT is the only social change initiative which works to prevent sex trafficking and prostitution by confronting the root causes, underlying policies, and conditions that enable these injustices. TFHT advocates for corrective policy, legislation, enforcement, and rehabilitation services for victims.

Among many highlights in FY26:

- TFHT was instrumental in the extension of the Law to Prohibit the Consumption of Prostitution in Israel for five more years
- TFHT expanded our growing network of nongovernmental organizations that comprise the Task Force's Coalition Against Prostitution to 30 organizations. For the first time, we have prostitution survivors within our Coalition
- TFHT launched a historic anti-trafficking pilot project across municipalities in Israel to increase recognition of trafficking victims and create cross-sector interventions with key stakeholders
- TFHT reached nearly 1 million Israelis through educational social media campaigns to help shift public thinking and reduce demand

Though wartime in Israel presents new challenges, all of us at the Task Force remain resolute in our mission: to abolish the sex trade in Israel and lift women and girls out of degradation into lives of self-determination and self-worth. We believe that by eradicating human trafficking and prostitution, Israel can set a global standard for all who are fighting on behalf of women and girls.

The Task Force is deeply grateful to The Miriam Fund for their exemplary partnership and generous support to help make this vision a reality.

The Women's Bar Foundation

The Women's Bar Foundation's (WBF's) Family Law Project for Survivors of Domestic Abuse fills a critical unmet need within the legal community, by providing free legal services to low-income individuals who cannot afford an attorney and are ineligible for services elsewhere. These free legal services empower low-income survivors, mostly women, to attain social and economic equity for themselves and their children.

For our clients, having an attorney is truly life changing. Here is one survivor of domestic abuse's story:

After the birth of their child, Julia's* husband became more violent and controlling. She decided to leave but was gripped by fear and faced a legal process that was "completely overwhelming." Fortunately, her WBF volunteer attorneys were with her "the whole way" in resolving her case.

The WBF recruits, trains, and mentors volunteer attorneys to provide these much-needed legal services. Our free high-quality trainings feature both substantive and procedural aspects of family law and incorporate information on working with survivors of domestic abuse who are also low-income, so that our volunteer attorneys can provide trauma-informed and culturally responsive legal representation. We also invite community organizations to present at our trainings to equip our volunteer attorneys with deeper knowledge about different client communities, enhancing their effectiveness in representing WBF clients.

The generous support of The Miriam Fund means clients like Julia get the crucial legal assistance they need to navigate a complex legal system and move forward with their lives.

**Name changed to protect client confidentiality.*



Class held by Women's Bar Foundation



The Vilna Shul

Whose stories get told? Using the power of storytelling to both locate the self and to challenge our assumptions is one of the hallmarks of The Vilna, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture. Housed on Beacon Hill in Boston's last remaining immigrant-era synagogue, The Vilna is a living repository for the stories of the Jews of Boston's West End and beyond. Enlivening these many stories, especially those that are lesser known, is at the heart of our work at The Vilna.

The launch of *The Only Woman in the Room* series in 2025, with the support of The Miriam Fund, was a next step in our ever-expanding storytelling efforts. Designed to elevate the voices and contributions of significant and lesser-known Jewish women throughout time, the series was inspired by the story of Beate Sirota Gordon, a Russian Jew and the only woman to serve on the committee which wrote the Japanese constitution. The book, *The Only Woman in the Room*, was written about her life and serves as our launching pad to celebrate innovative Jewish women who have deeply impacted our world. Through this series, we've featured historic figures such as Hedy Lamarr, glamour girl by day, physicist by night; and Celia Dropkin, a Yiddish poet in the 1930s; as well as contemporary voices like Roz Chast, *New Yorker* cartoonist; and Sara Gardner, a Boston-based culinary historian. By shining a light on stories of the past, we hope our audiences leave feeling inspired and empowered to help create a stronger future.

Grantees in action



Jewish Family & Children's Service



Elifelet – Citizens for Refugee Children



Mother's Milk Bank Northeast

The Miriam Fund

2025-2026 Leadership

TMF Chairs

Janet F. Aserkoff
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Deborah Posin

TMF Grant Chairs

Glenda Fishman
Janet Nahirny

Staff

Beth Tauro, Director
Nora Stolzman, Manager
(through February 2026)
Anne Marie Boursiquot King, Manager
(May 2026 to present)

Grant Subcommittee

Israel Chairs

Lynda Bussgang
Cindy Schlessinger

Jewish Chairs

Karen Kaplan
Marni Smilow Levitt

Secular Chairs

Susan Warshaw Benjamin
Debbie Kurinsky

Membership Committee Chairs

Gayle Rubin
Tana Weissman

Nomination Committee Chairs

Robin S. Gross
Harriet Schnitman

Program and Advocacy Committee Chairs

Sharon Shapiro
Karen Tucker

Executive Committee

Janet F. Aserkoff
Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Betsy Banks Epstein
Barbara Fierman
Reva Gold Fischman
Glenda Fishman
Leslie B. Gaffin
Carol R. Goldberg (z”l)*
Deborah B. Goldberg*
Rachel M. Goldstein
Rosalind E. Gorin*
Robin S. Gross (Nominations Co-chair)
Beth S. Klarman*
Janet Nahirny
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Deborah Posin

Gayle Rubin (Membership Co-chair)
Harriet Schnitman (Nominations Co-chair)
Barbara Schultz
Sharon Shapiro (Program and Advocacy Co-chair)
Karen Tucker (Program and Advocacy Co-chair)
Tana Weissman (Membership Co-chair)

**Denotes a TMF Founder*

2025-2026 Membership

Mary Akerson
Nancy Allen
Janet F. Aserkoff
Susan Warshaw Benjamin
Sara Bernstein
Joyce Bohnen
Lorraine Bressler
Hillary Brown
Lynda Bussgang
Julie Callum
Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Louise Citron
Dayl Cohen
Michele Cohen
Debra Marcus Corrado
Estelle G. Cushner
Mady Donoff
Laura Dubin
Betsy Banks Epstein
Esta Gordon Epstein
Sherri Ades Falchuk
Ruth Ann Feinberg
Loren Feingold
Fran Feldman
Abby Fierman
Barbara Fierman
Andie S. Finard
Peggy Goldsmith Fineman
S. Tracy Fischer
Reva Gold Fischman
Glenda Fishman
Brenda Freishtat
Amy Hope Friedman
Leslie B. Gaffin
Jodi Galin
Linda Gelb
Lisa Gilman
Carol R. Goldberg (z”l)
Deborah B. Goldberg
Joan Goldberg, M. D.
Rachel M. Goldstein
Doris Gordon
Rosalind E. Gorin
Ellen Gorowitz
Teri Gorsky
Julie Cederbaum Goschalk
Susan E. Gotz
Winnie Sandler Grinspoon

Robin S. Gross
Cynthia Ross Gruber
Susan L. Herman
Nancy Hodin
Diane Bernstein Homer
Harriet Kantrowitz
Karen Kaplan
Nancy R. Karp
Lisa Katz
Beth S. Klarman
Lisa Krakoff
Barbara Krakow
Debbie Kurinsky
Saul and Gitta Kurlat
Charitable Foundation
Lori Leif
Marcia Leifer
Linda J. Lerner
Marni Smilow Levitt
Meghan Lytton
Cynthia Marcus (z”l)
Deborah Marcus
Melanie Marcus
Lauren Mazzella
Lisa Michel
Janet Nahirny
Linda M. Noonan
Sylvia B. Perlman, Ph.D
Janet Polansky
Lorre Polinger
Robin M. Polishook
Lia G. Poorvu
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Deborah Posin
Suzanne Priebatsch
Rosemary Putnam
Nancy Raphael
Sharon Rich
Gail Rothenberg
Lisa Rourke
Gayle Rubin
Aviva E. Sapers
Cindy Schlessinger
Harriet Schnitman
Barbara Schultz
Pamela Schwartz
Nancy Selig
Joanne Shapiro

Sharon Shapiro
Jennifer K. Silver
Gayle Slattery
Ali Slavet
Toby M. Sloane
Susan Snider
Ellie Svenson
Gerri Sweder, Psy.D.
Barbara Targum
Carol Targum
Wendy Traynor
Karen Tucker
Jeane Ungerleider
Phyllis Viscidi
Barbara Freedman Wand
Dr. Ellen Weinberg
Jennifer Weinstock
Tana Weissman
Karen L. Whitman
Arnee R. Winshall
Meri Winter
Robin Wolk
Dana Yaphe
Anonymous (2)

The Miriam Fund Future Funders FY26 Cohort

Lindsay Alperin
Elana Ben-Akiva
Lily Goodspeed
Talia Greenberg
Jennifer Gutbezah
Hannah Dora Patterson
Ally Wolf

Thank you



Dear Members,

What an exciting year FY26 has been! Building on the momentum of The Miriam Fund’s 25th anniversary, TMF set goals to lead us into our next 25 years, enhancing our grant practices and creating new opportunities for member engagement. I hope you enjoy reading these highlights.

New members: TMF warmly welcomed nine new members. These new members were joined by our first cohort of seven Future Funders. Together, these 16 individuals and their mentors gathered in October to get to know each other. TMF members Mady Donoff and Abby Fierman shared their philanthropic journeys, and all participated in an exercise to explore their own philanthropic goals and passions. The event sparked meaningful connections and wonderful energy for the year ahead.

Future Funders: Our initial Future Funder cohort members jumped into the TMF community, attended events and read LOIs and grant applications. They participated actively in grant meetings, led site visits, and provided thoughtful and vibrant perspectives to our work. TMF is thrilled to have each continue for their second year and to have them help mentor the new cohort of FY27 Future Funders.

Refining our grant process: Focusing on our grant work, TMF implemented and refined our process to review grantee partner end-of-year reports. Each grant committee now holds a third meeting to identify highlights and impact data, and suggest conversations with certain second- and third-year grantees to clarify their continued goals. This new process is in furtherance of TMF’s governance policies which states: “Each Subcommittee will also monitor and evaluate organizations TMF is currently funding to ensure that the programs are meeting grant expectations.”

TMF also launched an LOI task force to review the current LOI process and recommend changes, if any, for approval in FY27 and implementation in FY28.

Program and advocacy: The Program and Advocacy Committee achieved its goal and selected one issue, women and poverty with a focus on food insecurity, to effect change in the lives of women and girls. The Committee implemented a platform of activities tied to the issue. These opportunities were designed to engage and educate members, raise awareness, advocate for systemic change, and combine learning opportunities with concrete advocacy efforts.

Closing Event: TMF’s Closing Event updated members on current and evolving demographics in the Greater Boston Jewish Community with a discussion of the 2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study led by CJP colleagues Shani Wilkes, Associate Vice President, Research and Evaluation, and Sophia Guttoff, Vice President, Marketing. It was a vibrant overview of trends in community growth which may inform TMF’s own growth and impact in future years.

Community: Whether at events, grant meetings, small task force discussions, or in one-on-one conversations, the TMF members engage thoughtfully, collaboratively, and with respect for one another. This teamwork continues to ignite our determined efforts to support our grantee partners while honoring the community and values of The Miriam Fund. I am so grateful to work side by side with each of you.

The relevance and importance of TMF’s focus on supporting organizations that serve self-identifying women and girls increases daily. As grant makers, we continue to grow and listen, embrace best practices, and partner with our grantees to support the incredible efforts they achieve for their communities.

With gratitude and respect,

Beth Tauro
Director, The Miriam Fund

The Miriam Fund

Creating opportunities for women and girls

To learn more about The Miriam Fund:

Visit our website

cjp.org/miriamfund

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The Miriam Fund is a unique collaborative venture with
Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston (CJP).